

Clamming

Duxbury Clipper, Thursday, January 2, 1975

Duxbury Clams

The January 1953 issue of *Bostonia*, the B.U. Alumni magazine, has an article titled: "The Massachusetts Clam Industry." It says in part:

"Back in its peak year of production - 1936 - Duxbury Bay was tapped for 177,000 bushels of clams. They sold at \$1.50 a bushel. In 1950 this same area gave up only 170 bushels, and their cost rose to the high price of \$5 a bushel. The number of commercial diggers in the same area stood at 117 in 1936, and in 1950 there were only 44 diggers."

The clamming industry in this State, once a million dollar enterprise, has faded in the last 15 years because of a change in the configuration of the coastline and because of such predators as horseshoe crabs and snails. Water pollution from sewage and industrial waste has closed more than 65 percent of the State's productive shellfish areas.

Duxbury clams are not so famous today as they were at the turn of the century, when they were occasionally mentioned in Gay Ninety cook books, but an intensive research program is underway to see what can be done about increasing their supply in Massachusetts.